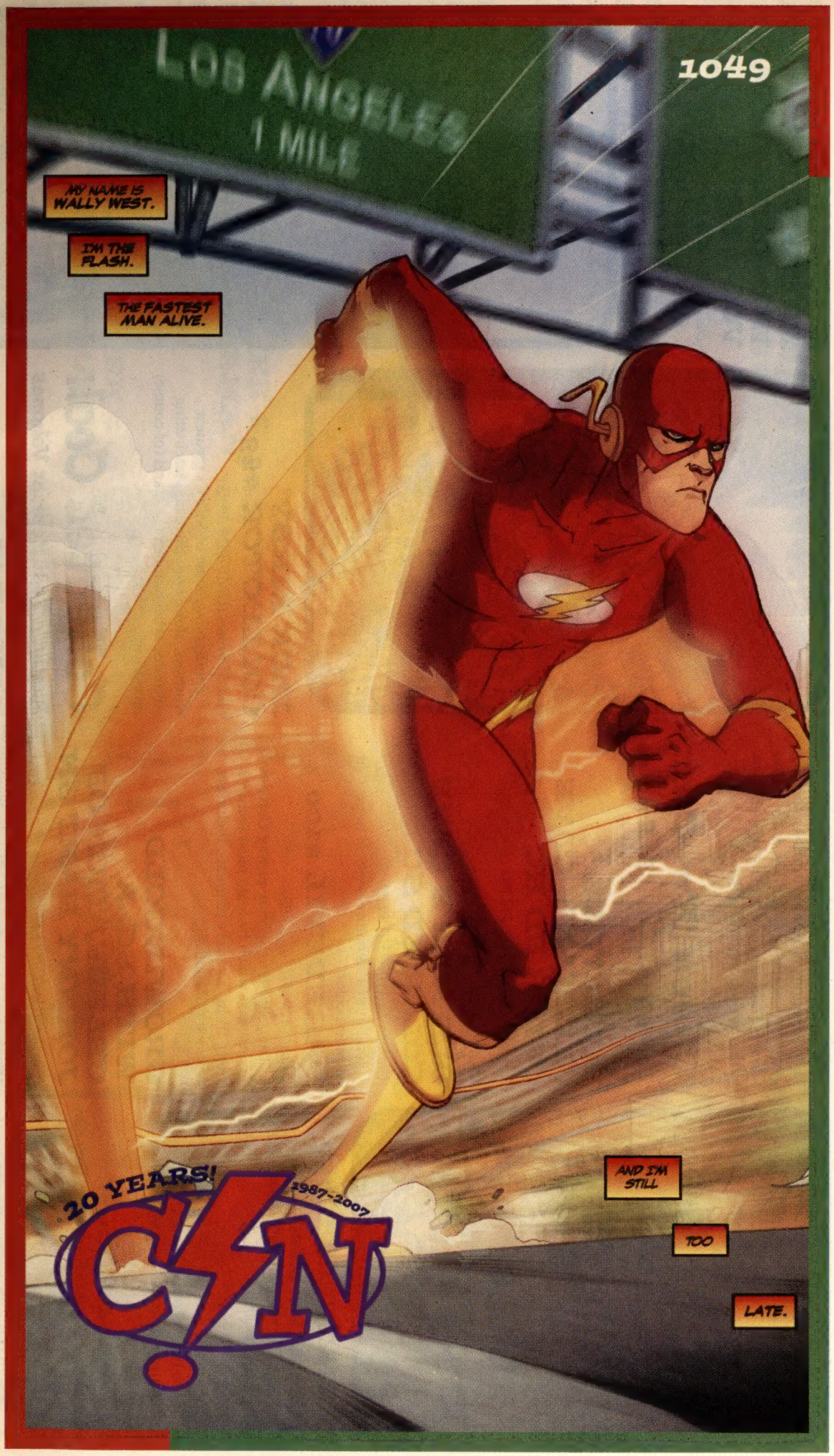

1049
LOS ANGELES
1 MILE
MY NAME IS WALLY WEST.
I'M THE FLASH.
THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.
AND I'M STILL
TOO
LATE.
20 YEARS!
1987-2007
C!N

Flash Forward

Wally's back—and so is *Mark Waid!*

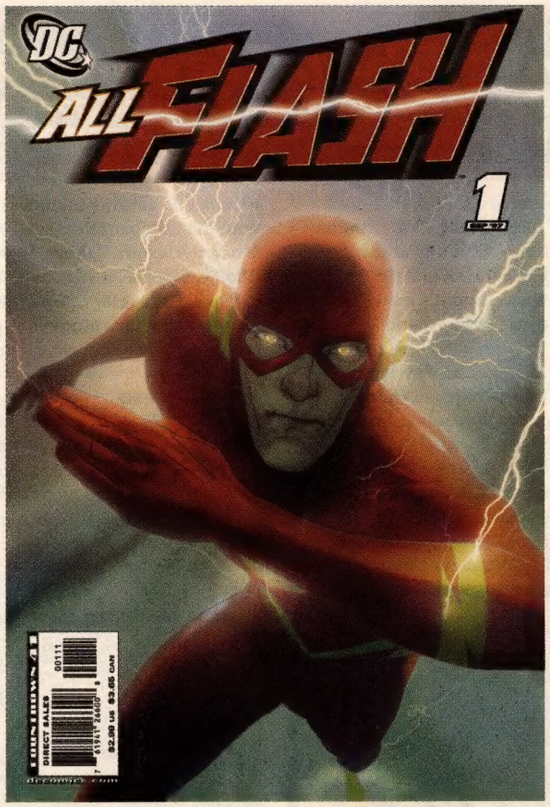
The return of the previous Flash, a climactic event of the five-part "Lightning Saga" ***Justice League of America/Justice Society of America*** crossover, occurred with such fanfare that no spoiler alerts are necessary. For ***Flash*** fans, though, the return of one of the most popular writers of the Scarlet Speedster is equally big news—and a sign that the Flash is getting the sort of attention that a character of his caliber deserves.

Waid's first new Flash work can be seen in the pages of ***All-Flash #1,*** which features stories focusing on DC's various Flashes and the importance of the superfast hero to the DCU. Next month, he'll helm the return of Wally West in his own title with the release of ***Flash #231,*** which picks up its numbering with the subsequent issue after Wally's last.

What's so amazing is that DC managed to keep all of this a total secret until they announced they first broke the story in mid-June. "Nobody knows that I was back on Flash," Waid said. "We kept it a very, very closely guarded secret... I'm already about three in. So I'm staggered by the fact that it's one of the very few well- kept secrets I've ever seen in comics!" Just how much of an accomplishment is this? Well, bear in mind that "it's been in the works for nearly a year," according to Waid—and absolutely no one had a clue that it was taking place."

Marc Guggenheim, who wrote the final issues of ***Flash—The Fastest Man Alive*** leading up to the death of Bart Allen, was one of the few who knew what was in the works months ahead of time. "I was told that my run would be five issues; I was told that it would end with whacking him, and I was even told that the Rogues had to play a pivotal role in being responsible for his death."

Playing along with DC's plan, Guggenheim said that "I did lead people to believe that my involvement would be open-ended, but that's pretty common in comic books these days. For example, when I had my first run on ***Wolverine,*** Marvel was the one saying that my commitment was going to be open-ended, when my run was only slated to be six issues. I think that's just common practice among both major publishers these days because of solicitations. And it's just better for sales if they don't publicize arcs being closed-ended.



"As far as the statement that my job was establish Bart as the Flash, yeah – that I *did* say, and said it repeatedly, and it's 100% true. My job was to establish Bart as the Flash. It just so happened that my job was to establish him as the Flash and then kill him.

"My goal was that, if I was going to kill Bart, I was going to make sure that Bart died as a Flash. In fact, that's the whole reason for page 13 of issue #13, with Bart screaming 'I am the Flash!' I really wanted to try to establish Bart as a legitimate Flash before we killed him. And I was very careful in all the interviews and all the message board postings I did to not lie—I repeatedly said that I was *not* bringing Wally back, and that's true. I wasn't going to do it. No on asked me if *someone else* was going to do it, though... I never lied about the story, and I never lied about where the story was going. In fact, leading up to the publication of issue #13, I was posting a line of dialogue per page, and then a line of dialogue per two pages from the issue. So—while I may not have been up front, I never lied about it."

Guggenheim took full responsibility for transforming the Flash's rogues from quirky thieves to vicious murderers who would take the life of someone barely out of childhood. "The directive from DC was that the Rogues kill Bart. In thinking about that, there were various dramatic requirements that I had to write towards that stemmed from that directive. In other words, if you're going to have the Rogues kill Bart, that has to be up close and personal, dramatically, otherwise you diminish Bart's death. There has to be a certain degree of culpability, and yet at the same time, you have to stay true to their character.

"One of the things that I tried to get across with the Rogues was that they were acting out of a pattern. So while it is up close and personal, it's a little less malicious than a premeditated murder plot. I tried to balance the way they've always been portrayed in the past, with the dramatic requirements of the story. Again, in the aftermath of this, I think that there's a lot of interesting story to be told in terms of the world's reaction and the Rogue reaction to their action here."

Was Guggenheim given any plot elements that had to be included as a lead-in to Waid's return to ***The Flash?*** "He's really just starting with a clean slate, or a pseudo fresh slate, as there is, as you pointed out, some business to take care of in the wake of Bart's death. But apart from Mark reading my script, there wasn't much interaction.

Guggenheim had no doubts that his story would be controversial. "I definitely realized that they were asking me to do something that was going to have an impact. It's funny—and people may not believe me when I say this, but I actually accepted the job so I could kill Bart for his own good. Bart was going to die anyway, whether I pulled the trigger or not, and I was at least able to give him the send off that I wanted to give him."

Oddly enough, the *other* storyline that played a major role in Wally West's return wasn't originally planned as a Flash-replacement story. "We wanted the crossover to end in life, by bringing another Flash back," ***Justice League of America*** writer *Brad Meltzer* said. "Then, when we found out that Bart was going to die (and let me be clear, I love Bart), it was just unreal timing... I'm still amazed how DC made all the pieces fit. Again, our story was done by the time ***Countdown*** was even being talked about, so the fact they were able to add Karate Kid and Dr. Impossible to ***Countdown***—not to mention how *Marc Guggenheim* was such a prince in working around our plans in ***Flash***—that was the real teamwork."

Some—including Batman himself, as it turns out—suspected that it would be Barry Allen, not Wally West, who returned in "The Lightning Saga." Was Wally always the planned return? "Who say's the story's done?" Meltzer teased.

Justice Society of America writer and former ***Flash*** writer *Geoff Johns,* who collaborated with Meltzer on "The Lightning Saga," summarized his primary reason for bringing Wally West back. "I miss writing Wally, Linda, and the Rogues a lot!... There were a lot of questions open about Wally and his family and people wanted to know the story — so did I!

"I'm really excited about Mark's upcoming run on The Flash," Johns added. "Mark's someone who has been hugely influential on me, even now more so than before I got in the business, and his Flash run is my favorite comic run of all time."

Readers might suspect that the chance to return to ***Flash*** was one of the reasons *Mark Waid* returned to DC, but that's not actually the case. "It was offered later," he said. "But it made sense. It just made sense."

While it's been several years since Waid last wrote an issue of ***The Flash,*** he said that it's still "a very comfortable place to be, although the effort is being made, both by me and by editorial, to make sure that it feels new and it's not just a return to stuff I've done before. A lot off that is because, you know, the characters I'm returning to are different."

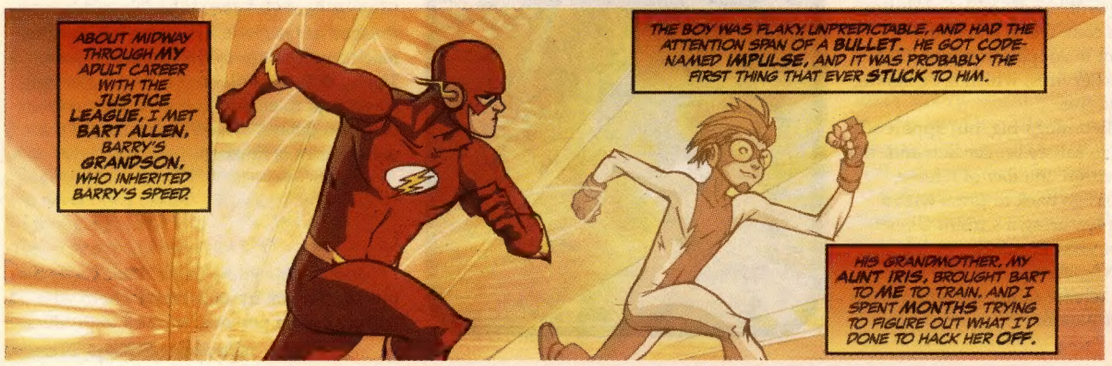
Is Waid doing a lot of research on Flash history to prepare for his run on the series? "Actually, no!" he said with a laugh. "I'm actually more looking at it and trying to figure out places where, both plot-wise and thematically, just looking at places where Flash hasn't gone yet, and trying to stretch forward."

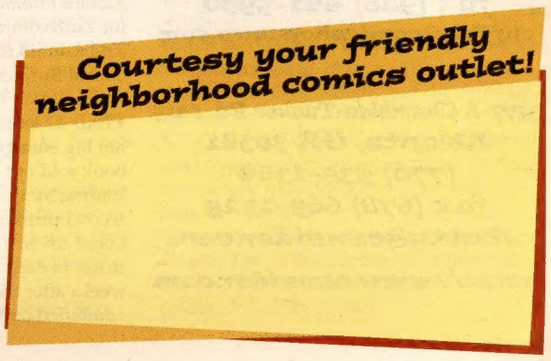
Waid describes his first Flash project, ***All-Flash #1,*** as "sort of a retrospective of the Flash legacy over the years and how it's extended all the way back from Jay and all the way to Bart. And maybe beyond. So, that's the comic book reason why we're doing ***All-Flash.*** And another reason is that, by the time we locked down the artist for the new series, we needed an issue in between in a hurry. So ***All-Flash*** was born that day when we realized we didn't want to rush the guy who was doing the ongoing series, but he can't finish by the date we need. So what can we do that helps bridge the link between the *Marc Guggenheim* series and what I'm doing?"

The artist in question is *Daniel Acuña,* best known for his recent work on ***Uncle Sam & the Freedom Fighters.*** Waid said that Acuña's ***Flash*** pages "look phenomenal. I've never worked with Daniel, and his style is very airbrush, very painter-ly. I wasn't sure we were going to be the best fit, but I was wrong. He's great at not only capturing the expressions and the emotions, which is always a huge part of my writing, but The Flash looks amazing. Finally, thirty years worth of printing technology and coloring technology advancements have caught up to the Flash. It looks sleeker and more special-effect-laden in terms of what he can do with the art than we've ever done with The Flash before."

All-Flash #1, written by *Mark Waid* with art by *Karl Kerschl, Ian Churchill, Manuel Garcia, Joe Bennett, and Daniel Acuña,* should be in comic shops already; ***Flash #231,*** written by Waid with art by Acuña, follows in August. Readers can look forward to a appearances by the Justice League in ***Flash #233*** as DC's heroes try to come to terms with the ramifications of Wally West's return.

by Vaneta Rogers & Matt Brady (with Cliff Biggers)


ABOUT MIDWAY THROUGH MY ADULT CAREER WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, I MET BART ALLEN, BARRY'S GRANDSON, WHO INHERITED BARRY'S SPEED.
THE BOY WAS FLAKY, UNPREDICTABLE, AND HAD THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A BULLET. HE GOT CODE-NAMED IMPULSE, AND IT WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST THING THAT EVER STUCK TO HIM.
HIS GRANDMOTHER, MY AUNT IRIS, BROUGHT BART TO ME TO TRAIN. AND I SPENT MONTHS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I'D DONE TO HACK HER OFF.



Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

CSNsider

•Marvel takes readers farther back into the non-superhero Atlas era than ever before with the release of ***Marvel Masterworks Strange Tales Volume One,*** reprinting the first ten issues of the horror-SF-suspense comic. These issues, which date back to 1951, include work by *Stan Lee, Joe Maneely, John Romita, Gene Colan, Russ Heath, Bill Everett, Bernie Krigstein, Jim Mooney, Dick Ayers,* and others. And if you've ever tried to track down these comics, you know what a big deal this reprint is!

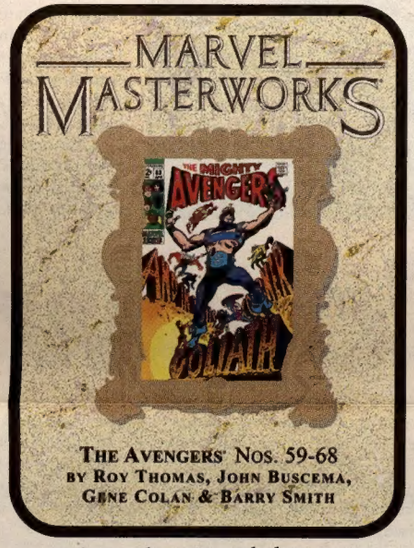
•***All-New Booster Gold #1,*** cover-featured in ***CSN*** a couple of weeks ago, has put on some extra weight—eight pages worth, in fact. Not only is DC adding eight more story pages to the *Geoff Johns-Jeff Katz-Dan Jurgens-Norm Rapmund* series premiere, they're also adding an *Arthur Adams* 1:10 variant cover. "As a series, ***Booster Gold*** is going to be different as a series from a lot of other books out there," *Dan Jurgens* said. "We're bouncing from present day to points in the past, from Sinestro to Jonah Hex to Batgirl—this book is going to *move,* and it's going to play a very formative role in the shape of the DCU."

•And speaking of pagecount increases, ***World War Hulk #s 3-5*** are also adding eight pages per issue, increasing from 48 to 56 pages. Hey, it's a *big* war!...

•Marvel's Silver Age Masterworks offering is ***Marvel Masterworks Avengers Volume Seven,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 59-68*** and ***Marvel Super-Heroes #17.***

•DC becomes the first major publisher to venture into webcomics with the announcement of a new "imprint," Zudacomics.com. Don't think you'll get your weekly fix of ***Superman, Batman,*** or ***Justice League of America*** there, though; the site will feature original webcomics done exclusively for online reading (although it's likely that print versions will follow). The site will launch in October, and readers will vote on which series they'd like to see continue after a trial run. "We want to build a great stage for this new generation of creators to perform on, a solid system for their work to reach audiences online and in print, and for the creators to share in the profits their creations can generate," *Paul Levitz,* DC Comics President & Publisher, said. Any and all genres will be considered, including humor, romance, science fiction, fantasy and superheroes. *Ron Perazza, Kwanza Johnson,* and *Richard Bruning* will handle editorial duties for Zudacomics.com. DC is launching Zudacomics.com in cooperation with IBM Global Business Services, which is designing and building the site.

•***Thor #1*** launched mega-big, but apparently not big enough to satisfy reader demand: the book sold out within one day of release, leading Marvel to go back to press with a second printing featuring a variant *Olivier Coipel* cover. The second printing will be in stores in early August, just a couple of weeks after the release of the *Arthur Suydam* zombified cover variant.



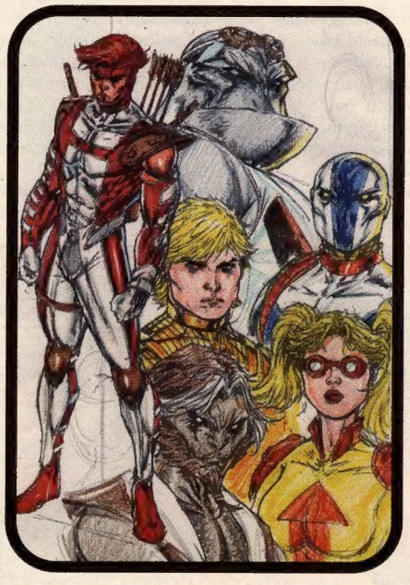
•*Frank Cho* gets his moment in the spotlight with the October release of TwoMorrows' ***Modern Masters Volume Fourteen: Frank Cho,*** as *Eric Nolen-Weatherington* takes an extensive look into Cho's career and creative process—and this study is supplemented with interviews and art, including many rare and unpublished pieces.

•On his message boards, *Rob Liefeld* has announced that, "after a long protracted period... Platinum Studios and myself have recently come to the most amicable of terms that we have had in the past ten years. In a nutshell, what this means is... that we will be able to start producing much more product, comics, toys, games than any time in over a decade.

"So, in the immediate future, I've made a deal with an established publisher to start running new product as of October 2007... An all-new ***Youngblood*** series will begin in early 2008, likely in January. A very talented and popular writer is at the helm acting as the producer of the series, I have in essence granted a free license to him and I will be producing covers for every issue.

"Yes, ***Bloodsport*** is on tap to finish as is several other long dormant products. As for the Arcade imprint, there are still new projects to come in 2008 from Arcade but that's way too far in the future to talk about. Arcade will be a production label on Bloodsport when it emerges at the new publisher."

Look for more news in the next few weeks.



•First Second has an original ***Prince of Persia*** graphic novel in the works for 2008 release. Editorial director *Mark Siegel* tracked down ***Prince of Persia*** videogame creator *Jordan Mechner* is involved in the creation of this original work, supplying the backstory behind the graphic novel. The original work will not be based on the videogame or the upcoming Disney film, but will have links to both for those familiar with the concept, while functioning as a standalone tale for those who've never heard of the game

•Moonstone Publishing's back-on-the-schedule ***Doc Savage: The Lost Radio Scripts of Lester Dent*** will make a trade paperback appearance this fall, but it's the limited edition hardcover that Doc Savage fans and art aficionados will want: not only is this 300-copy edition signed by cover artist and interior illustrator *Tom Roberts,* but it will also feature special Doc Savage color plates featuring new art by *Dave Dorman, Joe Prado,* and *Ruben Procopio* that will only appear in this edition.

•TokyoPop ventures into the deluxe hardcover market with the release of several ***Ultimate Editions,*** each featuring more than twice as many manga pages as the standard paperback editions. Their first offerings, slated for early October release, include ***Battle Royale Ultimate Edition Volume One*** (of five), which will supplement the manga with character sketches, articles, background info, and more; ***Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy Ultimate Edition,*** which includes the entire three-volume series in one massive book, along with eight color pages of new story as well as sketches and a new introduction & afterword; and ***Fruits Basket Ultimate Edition,*** which includes interior color art, a new foreword, and a creator autograph. Additionally, TokyoPop is offering a softcover ***Princess AI Ultimate Edition,*** collecting all three volumes of the *Courtney Love* co-created manga in one trade paperback that will feature some supplemental color pages.

•Top Shelf Comics ventures into classic fantasy with the release of ***Elfworld Volume One,*** an indy comics anthology featuring original work by *Jeffrey Brown, Martin Cendreda, Liz Prince, Kazimir Strzepek, K. Thor Jensen, Ron Regé, Jr.,* and others.

•*Mike Bullock* reports that ***Lions, Tigers, & Bears Vol 2 #4,*** which has been delayed due to artist Paul Gutierrez's health problems, is finished at last; tentative plans call for it to reach comic shops in mid-August. ***Lions, Tigers, & Bears Volume 3*** is in the planning stages, but to ensure that there are no unanticipated delays, it won't launch until the entire series is finished.

Don't Poo-Poo This Graphic Novel

Most people know *Edgar Allan Poe* as the moody, driven, byronic literary hero who endured great personal turmoil to produce

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some of the finest macabre literature ever written.

Dwight MacPherson is familiar with that Poe... but that's not exactly the character he's writing about in his original graphic novel ***The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allan Poo.*** Instead, MacPherson and artist *Thomas Boatwright* are focusing on a man haunted by memories of his dead wife, fears of literary failure, and doubts about his own imaginative skills. Everything changes, though, when Poe falls asleep in an outhouse, setting free his imaginative dream child, Edgar Allan Poo, who takes readers and the author himself on an odyssey through Poe's troubled psyche.

MacPherson admits that the outhouse sequence is a literary device and not a depiction of any real event in Poe's life. "The first page of the book is a clever way of getting readers interested in the book. As the story progresses, what truly happened in that outhouse will be revealed."

Poe's surreal adventure into the land of Terra Somnium, a bizarre world akin to Alice's Wonderland, is as confusing for Poe as it is for the book's audience. "My intention is for readers to experience this strange new world as Poo experiences it," MacPherson told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Ryan McLelland.* "We feel his confusion, and hopefully his fear, as we plunge deeper into the land of Terra Somnium. I hope my decision to thrust Poo (and the reader) into the surreal land of dreams engages readers and makes them feel as if they are adventuring with our hero."

The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allen Poo is set in 1849, the year of Poe's death. "By that time, his mind was filled with mythology and fantasy--a rich dreamworld in which to place our hero," MacPherson said. "As well, he had already written his great works and I am sure that they would be a part of his psyche by the time the events of our story take place."

The inspiration for the strip, oddly enough, was *James Russell Lowell's* poem "A Fable for Critics." ""What really struck me was Lowell's assessment of Poe," MacPherson said. "'There comes Poe, with his raven, like Barnaby Rudge, Three-fifths of him genius and two-fifths sheer fudge.' This passage is what started the wheels turning. 'What if that fudge was what accounted for his genius?' One thing led to another, and here we are."

Prior to its print version, ***The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allan Poo*** found an eager audience as a webcomic. However, getting the book into print was MacPherson's goal from the very beginning. "A friend suggested submitting to Shadowline, I did so, and [Shadowline president] *Jim [Valentino]* and [Shadowline editor] *Kris [Simon]* were blown away. And I must say that I have no doubt that I am with the right publisher."

The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allan Poo is slated for August release from Image Comics.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in October

A zombie turned gunslinger is the star of *Kevin Ferrara's* ***The Badlander,*** a four-issue limited series. Legend depicts him as a ghostly outlaw haunting the deserts of Nevada—but in reality, he's a rotting corpse of a man, a zombie controlled by the Bog Witch. But he has a plan to destroy the witch and regain his soul...

Faith set out to kill a Slayer in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #7*** by *Brian K. Vaughan, Georges Jeanty, & Andy Owens.* Her target is Lady Genevieve Savidge; if she's left unstopped, the British heiress will usher in the apocalypse. Faith has accepted Giles's offer of an early retirement package for this gig—but the wetworks will have to wait till she's infiltrated Savidge's mystically protected estate.

Kurt Busiek & Greg Ruth present the latest installment of "Born on the Battlefield" in ***Conan #45,*** offering another look at Conan's younger years.

It's the collection that Conan fans have dreamed of—and now it's becoming a reality. ***The Savage Sword of Conan Volume One*** features 542 pages of black and white Conan tales by *Roy Thomas, Barry Windsor-Smith, John Buscema, Alfredo Alcala, Pablo Marcos, and others.* This volume also includes the Conan tales originally published in ***Savage Tales.***

Dark Horse's ***Classic Comic Book Character*** line of syroco-styled statues continue with the release of the rough-hewn ***Cutter*** sculpture, limited to 550 copies.

Sculptor *Tim Bruckner* continues to interpret *Wendy & Richard Pini's* ***ElfQuest*** stars in three dimensions; this time, the healer is spotlighted with the release of the ***ElfQuest Bust: Leetah.***

Jason Hall, Nate Piekos, Rick Lacy, & Fabio Laguna invite readers to revisit Hellboy's offbeat world in ***Hellboy Animated Volume Three: The Menagerie,*** which features two stories—one focusing on Hellboy and his crew, the other an Ape Sapien adventure.

If ultra-expensive highly detailed vinyl model kits are your thing, then you'll want the ***Kotobukiya General Grievous Episode III Vinyl Model Kit,*** an 11" tall snap-fit kit that can be assembled in seconds.

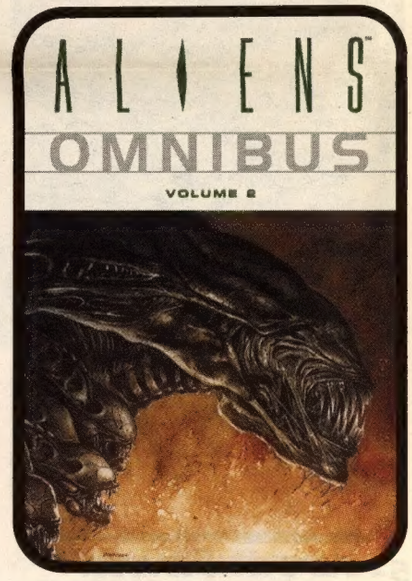
How do you survive in a world populated by zombies? Simple: you pretend to be one! That's the concept behind ***Living With the Dead,*** a three-issue miniseries by *Mike Richardson & Ben Stenbeck,* with covers by *Richard Corben.* Meet Straw and Whip, two slackers who have lived through a plague that's left the world with seven billion brain-hungry zombies. Life is tough as they try to keep up the appearance of being like the rest of the decomposing masses...

Serenity fans can put Inara Serra's shuttle into Christmas tree orbit with the ***Inara's Shuttle Serenity Ornament.*** This item is limited to pre-orders only, so don't wait for a second chance!

Star Wars fumetti time once again! ***Star Wars Episode IV—A New Hope Photo Comic*** retells the first *real* ***Star Wars*** tale, utilizing screen captures from the film.

Learn how to produce manga from those who do it for a living in ***Style School Volume Two,*** a 160-page volume featuring eight more "how to" lessons: watercolor pen, photoshop style, colored ink, watercolor brush, utilizing Liquitex, and effective use and combination of 2D and 3D software art.

Rick Remender & Eric Nguyen present a new adventure of alien exterminator Heath Huston in ***Tales of the Fear Agent: Twelve Steps in One,*** a standalone story that pits Huston against a corrupt alien race that uses religion as a justification for draining a sun of the energies that sustain it.



Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Aliens Omnibus Volume Two,*** a hefty 448-page full-color collection of long-out-of-print ***Aliens*** series, including ***Genocide, Harvest,*** and the never-before-collected ***Colonial Marines;***
- ***Batman/Grendel,*** a trade paperback collection of every *Matt Wagner* story bringing together the Dark Knight and the embodiment of evil;
- ***Rex Mundi Volume Four: Crown & Sword,*** collecting seven more issues of the alternative history melodrama by *Arvid Nelson & Juan Ferreyra;* and
- ***Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection Volume Ten—Crimson Empire,*** collecting the tale by *Mike Richardson, Randy Stradley, Paul Gulacy, & P. Craig Russell.*

August's Top Twenty Comics

30 DAYS OF NIGHT: RED SNOW #1

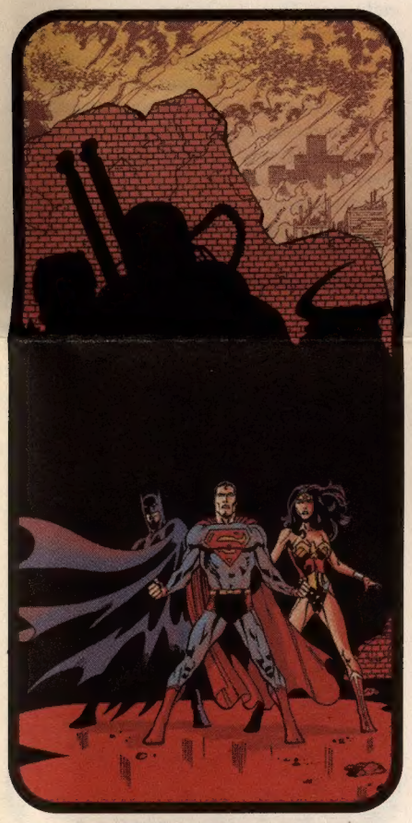
Ben Templesmith (W/A)
(IDW JUN073672 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Vampires make WWII's Eastern Front even more menacing for a British observer dispatched to Russia to ensure an adequate supply line to support Stalin's war with the Nazis. Turns out that the Nazis are the least of his worries, though!...

Why Should You Care?

Vampires, WWII, Nazis... sounds like it could be an Indiana Jones film made by *John Carpenter*, doesn't it? The *real* appeal here, though, is the return of original ***30 Days*** artist *Ben Templesmith*, who is both writing *and* drawing this prequel series.



52 AFTERMATH: THE FOUR HORSEMEN #1

Keith Giffen (W); Pat Oliffe & Drew Geraci (A)
(DC JUN070158 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The four living embodiments of the Dread Ages of Apokolips rise from the ashes of a devastated nation, intent on reshaping the earth in their own horrifying images... unless Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman can stop them!

Why Should You Care?

DC's titanic trio may have been missing from the original 52 event, but they're most assuredly taking a very active role in this *Keith Giffen*-masterminded followup.

ALL NEW BOOSTER GOLD #1

Geoff Johns & Jeff Katz (W); Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund (A)
(DC JUN070155 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The glory-seeking hero from the future takes on a new job as protector of the DCU timeline—and that's going to bring him face to face with oodles of superstars from DC's past, present, and future!

Why Should You Care?

The true hero of 52 graduates to his own series—and he's joined not only by time master Rip Hunter, but also by master storyteller *Geoff Johns*, who's giving Booster his long-overdue place in the spotlight, and Booster creator *Dan Jurgens*, who supplies the visuals.

ARMY OF DARKNESS: FROM ASHES #1

James Kuhoric (W); Fernando Blanco (W)
(Dynamite JUN073388 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Fresh from his command performance in the Marvel Zombieverse, Ashley Williams returns to his own world... only to find that things have *really* gone to hell in his absence.

Why Should You Care?

Ash versus the Deadites... it's what ***Army of Darkness*** fans live for! Meanwhile, art fans will be happy to hear that Ash brought cover artist *Arthur Suydam* back from the zombieverse with him!

BATMAN #667

Grant Morrison (W); J.H. Williams III (A)
(DC APR070162 $2.99)

BATMAN #668

Grant Morrison (W); J.H. Williams III (A)
(DC MAY070134 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Batman of All Nations and the rest of the Club of Heroes thought they were getting together for some relaxing downtime and camaraderie... but they didn't know what the ominous Mister Mayhew had in store for them!

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison invites readers to re-experience the free-wheeling sense-of-wonder-filled days of the early Silver Age Batman, as filtered through the twisted mind of one of comics' best contemporary storytellers.

BLACK ADAM: THE DARK AGE #1

Peter Tomasi (W); Dough Mahnke, Norm Rapmund, & Christian Alamy (A)
(DC JUN070156 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

How'd Black Adam discover his magic mantra and regain his powers? Find out in this series that fills the gap between ***52's*** finale and the events of ***Countdown.***

Why Should You Care?

The man whose malevolence earned him a place in DC history—and started the most devastating war in DCU history—continues on his path towards villainous superstardom.

BLACK SUMMER #1

Warren Ellis (W); Juan Jose Ryp (A)
(Avatar JUN073286 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When a superhero targets the President for assassination, his former allies find themselves caught in the crossfire as the government strikes back.

Why Should You Care?

Warren Ellis gives Avatar its first A-level project—and what a project it is!

COUNTDOWN TO ADVENTURE #1

Adam Beechen & Justin Gray (W); Eddy Barrows, Fabrizio Fiorentino, & Julio Ferreira (A)
(DC JUN070146 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Adam Strange, Starfire, and Animal Man—last seen in 52—have returned to their respective homes... but their adventures are far from over! Meanwhile, Forerunner's adventures are just beginning...

Why Should You Care?

DC's third 52 spinoff series for the month continues the story of three of the most popular heroes from that year-long saga.

FLASH #231

Mark Waid (W); Daniel Acuña (A)
(DC JUN070188 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Back from the dead, Wally West reclaims his Flash role... but will he seek vengeance against those who murdered the Flash who replaced him?

Why Should You Care?

The return of Wally West is big news—but the return of writer *Mark Waid* to ***The Flash*** is even bigger news!

GLISTER #1

Andi Watson (W/A)

(Image JUN071888 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

A girl is visited by the ghost of a long-dead and much-maligned writer who'd like her help in transcribing his great novel... but young Glister has no idea what a challenge this will turn out to be!

Why Should You Care?

Andi Watson creates a charming and fascinating protagonist in the persona of this little girl who is a sort of strangeness magnet

GROO 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Mark Evanier & Sergio Aragonés (W); Sergio Aragonés (A)

(Dark Horse JUN070031 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

Groo celebrates twenty-five years of misadventures in this multi-featured book that includes a new comic book story, a primer of friends and foes, an illustrated retelling of the comics' origins, and much more.

Why Should You Care?

The best-known creation of one of the field's most brilliant cartoonists turns twenty-five, and his fans get a gift in the form of this chock-full special issue that paves the way for a new ***Groo*** limited series beginning this fall.

HARBINGER: THE BEGINNING HC

Jim Shooter (W); David Lapham (A)

(Valiant JUN073932 $24.95)

What's the Scoop?

Issues zero through seven of the once-acclaimed Valiant series are re-presented, along with an original story that—dare we hope?—might pave the way for more original Valiant tales!

Why Should You Care?

Once one of the 1990's hottest publishers, Valiant burned out before the decade was over... but their many fans, who have never forgotten the publisher's Camelot-like past glories, are sure to be interested in this collection that could be a precursor to Valiant's return.

JUNGLE GIRL #1

Frank Cho & Doug Murray (W); Adriano Batista (A)

(Dynamite JUN073384 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Pirates. Dinosaurs. Prehistoric men. Lost worlds. And of course, a beautiful, scantily clad jungle girl. It's all in here!

Why Should You Care?

Frank Cho masterminds this project that captures the essence of Edgar Rice Burroughs' best adventure fiction.

KILLING GIRL #1

Glen Brunswick (W); Frank Espinosa (A)

(Image JUN071882 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A skilled assassin for the Mafia discovers the truth behind her suppressed childhood memories... and learns that her real family may still be alive!

Why Should You Care?

Brunswick's "What if ***Alias's*** Sydney Bristow had worked for the mob?" concept is an instant hook, while ***Rocketo's*** Espinosa gives the book a distinctive visual style.

LAST FANTASTIC FOUR STORY

Stan Lee (W); John Romita Jr. (A)

(Marvel JUN072151 $4.99; also available in a signed edition (JUN073525 $299.99))

What's the Scoop?

Take a look at a possible Marvel future in this story of the final adventure of the team that launched the Marvel Age.

Why Should You Care?

Stan Lee returns to one of his greatest superhero success stories and is given creative *carte blanche*—how can you resist?

METAL MEN #1

Duncan Rouleau (W/A)

(DC JUN070208 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Gold, Platina, Mercury, Iron, Lead, and Tin are joined by new member Copper as Doc Magnus's creations return in their own limited series that pits them against the Gogoloth, giant stone golems made of Granite, Bizmuth, Onyx, and Lime.

Why Should You Care?

Their appearances in *52* and ***Superman/Batman*** were a great teaser for this energetic series that captures the vitality of those bygone Kanigher-Andru-Esposito tales.

STARCHILD MYTHOPOLIS II VOL 1 GN

James Owen (W/A)

(Desperado JUN073450 $6.99)

What's the Scoop?

At long last, *James Owen* launches the quarterly series that will complete his long-running fantasy saga!

Why Should You Care?

New twenty-page chapters of the ***Starchild*** saga... collaborations with *Paul Dini, Bill Sienkiewicz,* and others... an illustrated prequel to the acclaimed novel ***Here There Be Dragons...*** how many reasons do you need?

OUTSIDERS: FIVE OF A KIND WEEK 1 NIGHTWING/BOOMERANG

Nunzio DeFilippis & Christina Weir (W); Freddie Williams II (A)
(DC JUN070159 $2.99)

OUTSIDERS: FIVE OF A KIND WEEK 2 KATANA/SHAZAM

Mike W. Barr (W); Kevin Sharpe & Robin Riggs (A)
(DC JUN070160 $2.99)

OUTSIDERS: FIVE OF A KIND WEEK 3 THUNDER/ MARTIAN MANHUNTER

Tony Bedard (W); Koi Turnbull & Art Thibert (A)
(DC JUN070161 $2.99)

OUTSIDERS: FIVE OF A KIND WEEK 4 METAMORPHO/AQUAMAN

G. Willow Wilson (W); Joshua Middleton (A)
(DC JUN070162 $2.99)

OUTSIDERS: FIVE OF A KIND WEEK 5 GRACE/WONDER WOMAN

Marc Andreyko (W); Cliff Richards & Art Thibert (A)
(DC JUN070163 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman reassumes the lead post in the Outsiders operation... and his first project is to select a new lineup. The method? Five team-ups, five missions... but will there be five winners?

Why Should You Care?

The Outsiders came into the DCU under Batman's direction, so it's only appropriate that he should take the responsibility for rebuilding the team. But what sort of a team will he put together? The answers can be found here!

TEEN TITANS #50

Sean McKeever, Marv Wolfman, & Geoff Johns (W); Randy Green, George Pérez, & Mike McKone (A)

(DC JUN070219 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Titans bury another friend and welcome another member to the team in this landmark issue.

Why Should You Care?

Sean McKeever & Randy Green begin their run with this issue, but they're not the only creators who contribute to this extra-length book. *Marv Wolfman & George Pérez*, the men who propelled the Titans into prominence in the 1980s, present their first new Titans tale in many years, while *Geoff Johns & Mike McKone*—the men who launched the current series—reunite to collaborate on a new tale.

UN-MEN #1

John Whalen (W); Mike Hawthorne (A)

(Vertigo/DC JUN070260 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Where do freaks and outcasts go to avoid constant attention? Aberrance, a community comprised entirely of freaks and outcasts—a community run by the Un-Men. When one of their own is murdered, though, it takes an outsider to get to the bottom of the case...

Why Should You Care?

These creations of Anton Arcane from the glory days of the *Len Wein-Bernie Wrightson Swamp Thing* run find a place of their own in this offbeat ongoing series.

Check 'Em Out:

Books You Should Be Reading

BONE VOL 6: OLD MAN'S CAVE COLOR ED HC

(Cartoon MAY073311 $18.99)

BONE VOL 6: OLD MAN'S CAVE COLOR ED SC

(Cartoon MAY073310 $9.99)

Jeff Smith's signature series is re-presented in full color.

DAREDEVIL #100

(Marvel JUN072143 $3.99)

This extra-length issue pitting Daredevil against that which he fears most features guest art by a variety of greats, including Colan and Romita.

GROWINGOLD WITH BC: A CELEBRATION OF JOHNNY HART GN

(Checker JUN073372 $19.95)

The last BC collection overseen by Johnny Hart before his death is also, ironically, the *only* BC collection currently in print!

SHE-HULK 2 #21

(Marvel MAY072149 $2.99)

Dan Slott bids farewell to ***She-Hulk*** with an offbeat issue that Marvel calls "the most important Marvel comic you will read all year." So how does this series fix 90% of Marvel's continuity problems from now on?... You'll have to read it to find out!

FYI:

Great Additions to Your Reference Library

MODERN MASTERS VOL 13: JERRY ORDWAY SC

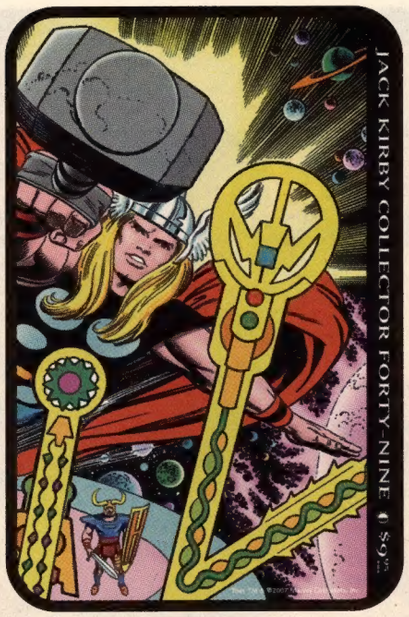
(TwoMorrows JUN073926 $14.95)

The career of the acclaimed illustrator of ***Superman, Shazam!, The Avengers,*** and many other series is spotlighted in this volume that includes interviews and scores of art reproductions, including many pieces never seen before.

SQUA TRONT #12

(Fantagraphics JUN073556 $9.95)

Latest issue of the acclaimed and all too infrequently released EC fan magazine includes a feature on EC's rarest publication, ***The Profit,*** along with a heaping helping of interviews, articles, and more.



JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR #49

(TwoMorrows JUN074028 $9.95)

Spotlighting some of Kirby's greatest warriors, along with the usual fascinating columns, articles, interviews, and (of course) unseen art.

Collected Cool:

August's Best Reprint Volumes

AMAZING FANTASY OMNIBUS VOL 1 HC

(Marvel JUN072212 $74.99)

Collecting ***Amazing Adventures #s 1-6, Amazing Adult Fantasy #s 7-14,*** and ***Amazing Fantasy #15***—including some of the best *Steve Ditko* material ever published by Marvel!

COMPLETE PEANUTS VOL 8: 1965-1966 HC

(Fantagraphics JUN073547 $28.95)

Featuring some of the best strips from the glory days of Charles Schulz's amazing career.

JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD OMNIBUS VOL 2 HC

(DC APR070196 $49.99)

This chronological repackaging almost makes it feel like you were there for the unveiling of the whole Fourth World Saga! This volume reprints Kirby's ***New Gods #4-6, Forever People #4-6, Jimmy Olsen #141-145,*** and ***Mister Miracle #4-6.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS ADAM STRANGE VOL 1 TP

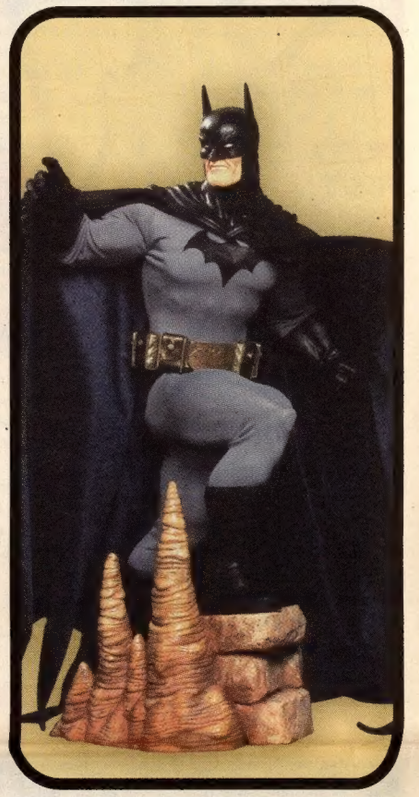
(DC MAY070180 $16.99)

500+ pages of Adam Strange tales from ***Showcase #s 17-19*** and ***Mystery in Space #s 53-84.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WONDER WOMAN VOL 1 TP

(DC MAY070181 $16.99)

Collecting *Robert Kanigher, Ross Andru, & Mike Esposito's* ***Wonder Woman #s 98-117*** in a hefty black and white compendium.



Hot Commodities:

August's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN 1/4 SCALE MUSEUM QUALITY STATUE

(DC Direct JAN070383 $295.00)

This mixed-media statue with fabric costume, designed and sculpted by James Shoop, is the second offering in DC Direct's ***Museum Quality*** line.

CLASSIC PEANUTS CHARACTER #9: MARCIE

(Dark Horse APR070067 $39.95)

This limited syroco-style sculpture is the latest in Dark Horse's ultra-collectible Peanuts statue series.

SHE HULK FF STATUE

(Bowen MAY074414 $185.00)

SHE HULK REGULAR STATUE

(Bowen MAY074413 $180.00)

Marvel's green-skinned glamour girl is spotlighted in variant statues—and the FF version comes with a base that matches Bowen Designs' previously-released FF statues.

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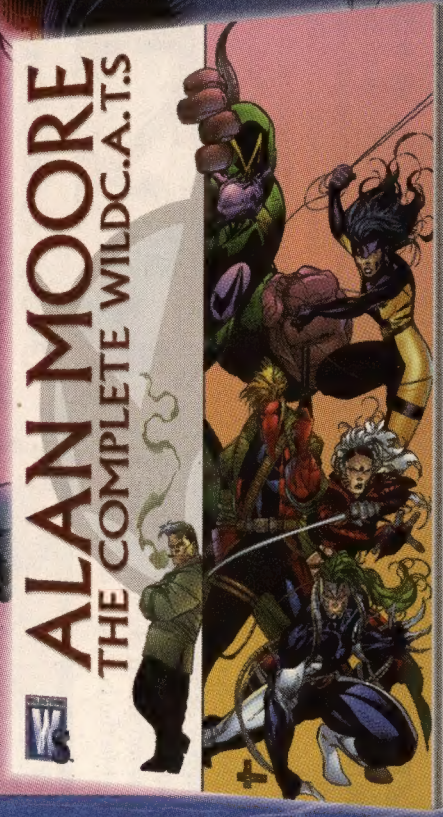

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